faster growth of sectors, sub-sectors and areas with relatively high employment intensity. Several Centrally sponsored/Central Sector special employment programmes are also being emplemented by the Government, important among which are the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozagar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and the Two Million Jobs Scheme of the Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC). Accordingly, the unemployment rate which was estimated to be around 3.77% during 1987-88 came down to 2.50% during 1993-94. It is expected that the strategy of employment intensive growth will be continued during the ensuing Ninth Five Year Plan also (2002).

Development of Bateshwar

2202. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had sanctioned Rs. 44 lakhs during the year 1992-93 for developing a religious shrine Bateshwar near Agra which is also important from tourism point of view;

(b) if so, whether the full amount has been utilised for the development of this areas;

(c) if so, the item-wise break up of the expenditure incurred;

(d) whether this area was declared a tourist place by the Union Government during 1995-96;

(e) if so, the schemes formulated by the Union Government for this purpose;

(f) whether the Union Government have received a scheme from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for the development of this area; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (g) The Central Department of Tourism has not sanctioned Rs. 44.00 lakhs during the year 1992-93 for developing a religious shrine at Bateshwar near Agra. However, three projects subsequently were sanctioned for Bateshwar, namely:-

(1) Renovation/restoration of Ghat on the bank of river Yamuna - Rs. 13.24 lakhs.

(2) Tourist Lodge at Bateshwar - Rs. 13.95 lakhs.

(3) Two Sulabh Shauchalyas to provide toilet facilities - Rs. 6.76 lakhs.

The implementation or projects is primarily the responsibility of the State/U.T. Governments. These projects are at various stages of completion by the State Government.

Post Offices In Rajasthan

2203. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of post offices and sub-post offices functioning at present in Rajasthan and Maharashtra;

(b) whether these post offices are inadequate in view of the population of the above states;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to increase the number of post offices of each category;

(d) if so, the number of post offices proposed to be opened in the above states, in each category; and

(e) the time by which they are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Total number of Post Offices and Sub Post Offices functioning at present in Rajasthan and Maharashtra is given below:

	Total number of Post Offices including Sub Post Offices	Total number of Sub Post Offices
Rajasthan	10,306	1392
Maharashtra	12,303	2087

(b) The average population served per Post Office in Rajasthan & Maharashtra is 4276 & 6417 persons respectively as against the national average of 5517 persons per Post Office. During the 8th Five Year Plan, 26 Departmental Sub Post Offices and 104 Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices in Rajasthan and 61 Departmental Sub Post Offices and 172 Extra-Departmental Post Offices in Maharashtra, have been sanctioned.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to open 7 Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices and 19 Departmental Sub Post Offices in Maharashtra and 4 Departmental Sub Post Offices in Rajasthan by March, 31, 1997.

[English]

Introduction of Trains Between Andal-Sainthia Section

2204. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demand to run more trains in Andal- Sainthia section;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Representations have been received for running more trains on Andal-Sainthia section, including from Shri Basudeb

Achariya, M.P, Passenger Associations and sections of the public.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Recognition to Sail as Infrastructure Industry

2205. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SAIL have since requested the Government to recognise the steel as an infrastructure industry; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Exploitation of Unemployed Youth

2206. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the exploitation of the unemployed youth by security agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the security agencies provide wages less than the minimum wages fixed by the Government; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check such exploitation of the labour by these security agencies?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

New Telephone Exchanges

2207. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) number of new telephone exchanges waiting for the Government clearance during 1996-97, State-wise; and

(b) the number of telephone exchange proposed to be opened during the year 1997-98, State-wise district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Information in respect of the question is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Hon'ble House.

Modernisation of Airports

2208. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT:
SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the heavy air traffic the Government propose to modernise the airports;

(b) if so, the details of such airports; State-wise;

(c) the type of modernisation work proposed to be undertaken, airport-wise;

(d) the amount involved in the modernisation process of each of the airport;

(e) the number of existing domestic and international airports in the country; and

(f) the number and details of the airports proposed to be constructed during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (f) Upgradation and modernisation of airports and other infrastructural facilities is an ongoing process. Airports Authority of India has 5 international airports. 87 domestic airports and 28 Civil Enclaves under its control. Out of the above, during the Ninth Plan period, the following airports have been identified for upgradation:

For limited international operations: Ahmedabad, Aurangabad, Amritsar, Bhubaneshwar, Calicut, Coimbatore, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Mangalore, Madurai and Varanasi. For domestic operations: Agartala, Bagdogra (civil enclave), Bhopal, Bhuj (civil enclave), Bhavnagar, Dibrugarh, Gaya, Hassan, Imphal, Jabalpur, Jammu, Kanpur, Kargil, Lilabari, Porbandar, Port Blair (civil enclave), Raipur, Silchar (civil enclave), Tezpur (civil enclave), Tirupathi and Vijayawada.

In addition, upgradation of airports at Hubli and Belgaum and construction of new airports at Gulbarga and Cannanore are under consideration. Estimated expenditure during the next three years by AAI for upgradation of airports is as under:-

Year	Rs. in crores
1997-98	609.15
1998-99	666.37
1999-2000	753.29